



OESNEWS

Governor's Office of Emergency Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 28, 2007

Contacts: Greg Renick
562-577-8503

OES Fire Chief Kim Zagaris Named 2007 Fire Chief of the Year

RIVERSIDE, CA -- Kim D. Zagaris, Chief of the Fire and Rescue Branch for the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), has been named 2007 Fire Chief of the Year by the California Fire Chiefs Association. Chief Zagaris started his career with OES in 1988 as an assistant chief responsible for field operations and quickly rose through the ranks to his current position in 2001. Prior to coming to OES, Zagaris worked for the Shasta County Fire Department and the federal Bureau of Land Management.

Zagaris, a resident of Shingle Springs, received the award Monday night during the association's annual awards banquet, which was attended by more than 250 fire chiefs from around the state. This award recognizes Chief Zagaris' tireless efforts and steadfast dedication to the mission of OES, where he partners with the California Fire Service to protect the lives and property of our residents.

As Chief of the OES Fire and Rescue Branch, Zagaris is responsible for managing California's mutual aid system for fire and rescue and the OES Fire Engine program. He also serves as Executive Coordinator for Firefighting Resources of California Organized for Potential Emergencies (FIRESCOPE) Board of Directors.

Zagaris was cited for placing safety issues first in the management of OES's fire engine program, which provides local fire agencies with free engines they can use in select day-to-day operations in exchange for staffing and deployment to major fires and emergencies at the request of OES.

The OES Fire and Rescue Chief "has been at the forefront in the development and procurement of state-of-the-art equipment to respond to fires and other natural and manmade disasters to protect the citizens of California," said OES Director Henry Renteria.

"Chief Zagaris is the model of fairness and equity for the California Fire Service, championing the interests of departments of all sizes and configurations," said Renteria. "Whether the State's largest agency or the smallest rural volunteer department, the Chief can be relied upon to do what is best for the California Fire Service and the citizens of California as a whole."

Zagaris is also a member of several boards, including the National Incident Management System Consortium, the California State Fire Marshall Statewide Training and Advisory Committee, the California Fire and Rescue Training Authority and the National Fire Protection Association's Standards for Emergency Responders committees. He also serves on the NFPA's Fire Services Occupational and Safety Committee, the DHS/FEMA National Mutual Aid Project team, as well as the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Urban Interface Working Team.